

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 3, 2005, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, the Applicant submits the following remarks, has canceled claims, and has added new claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-28 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 5, 13, 21, and 27 have been cancelled. The Applicant expressly reserves the right to prosecute the original claims and similar claims in one or more related Applications. Claims 29-32 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, 22-25, and 27-32 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, and 32 are independent claims and the remaining claims dependent.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 were amended to include the subject matter of cancelled dependent claims 5, 13, 21, and 27, respectively. Claims 3, 6, 11, 14, 19, and 22 were amended to correct antecedent basis issues raised by the amendments to independent claims 1, 9, and 17. Claim 8 was amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added to the Application by these amendments and the amendments should not necessitate further searching on behalf of the Examiner.

Objections to the Specification

The disclosure was objected to because on page 9, lines 15, 16, and 18 the reference number 54 was found to be inaccurate. The Specification has been amended to correct the inaccuracy. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under §102 and §103

Claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-22, and 24-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,568,542 to Chen (hereafter Chen). Claims 7, 15, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,791,841 to Tirrell et al. (hereafter Tirrell). The Applicant respectfully traverses each of these rejections and requests reconsideration. The claims are in allowable condition.

Taking the Applicant's amended claim 1 as an example, the claim recites a support assembly for supporting at least one cable connected to a circuit board assembly. The support assembly includes a support defining a first plane and a connection portion in communication with the support, the connection portion configured to couple with the circuit board assembly. The support assembly also includes a lip in communication with the support where the lip defines a second plane substantially perpendicular to the first plane defined by the support, the lip being configured to limit deflection of the support relative to the circuit board assembly when the connection portion couples with the circuit board assembly and the at least one cable exerts a load on the support. The support assembly also includes a coupling member in communication with the support where the coupling member is configured to engage a faceplate in communication with the circuit board assembly via an opening, defined by the faceplate, to form a latch to couple the support assembly to the faceplate.

Claim 25, as amended, recites a method for assembling a circuit board module. The method includes coupling a faceplate to a circuit board assembly, the faceplate defining an opening and placing a coupling member of a support assembly within the opening defined by the faceplate where the support assembly has a support defining a first plane, a connection portion in communication with the support, the connection portion configured to couple with the circuit board assembly, and a lip in communication with the support, the lip

defining a second plane substantially perpendicular to the first plane defined by the support, the lip configured to limit deflection of the support relative to the circuit board assembly when the at least one cable exerts a load on the support. The method also includes engaging the coupling member of the support assembly with the faceplate to couple the support assembly to the faceplate.

Chen relates to a suspending cable rack for patch panels, and in particular relates to a suspending cable rack that is capable of mounting to a communication cable end of a patch panel for sorting and holding communication cables in an organized manner.

Independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended, are not anticipated by Chen because Chen does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the claims. With respect to the rejection of claim 1, for example, on page 3, first paragraph the Office Action contends that Chen discloses a support assembly having a support (Chen's element 10), a connection portion configured to couple with the circuit board assembly (Chen's element 40), a lip (Chen's element 20), and a faceplate having an opening that forms latch (Chen's element 31). However, if such a contention is made, Chen does not teach all of the elements of the Applicant's support assembly, as amended.

In claims 1, 9, and 17, the Applicant claims a support assembly as comprising, generally, a support, a connection portion, a lip, and a coupling member where the coupling member is configured to engage a faceplate and form a latch to couple the support assembly to the faceplate. Furthermore in claim 25, the Applicant claims engaging a coupling member of a support assembly (e.g., the support assembly having the elements of a support, a connection portion, and a lip) with the faceplate to couple the support assembly to the faceplate. As shown in Fig. 4 of Chen, a latch is formed by an interface between the elements 31 and 20 which couples only the lip 20 and the support

10 to the faceplate 31. The latch in Chen does not connect the connection portion 40 to the faceplate 31. As such, Chen does not teach or suggest a latch that couples *a support assembly having the elements of a support, a connection portion, a lip, and a coupling member, to the faceplate*, as claimed by the Applicant.

For the reasons stated above, independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art, and the rejection of the independent claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1, 9, and 17, and 25 are in allowable condition. Additionally, claims 2-4 and 6-8 which depend from claim 1, claims 10-12 and 14-6 which depend from claim 9, and claims 18-20 and 22-24 which depend from claim 17, and claims 27 and 28 which depend from claim 25, should also be allowed for at least the reasons presented above.

As indicated above, claims 7, 15, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Tirrell. However, claim 7 depends from allowable independent claim 1, claim 15 depends from allowable independent claim 9, and claim 23 depends from allowable independent claim 17. The rejection of these dependent claims over Chen in view of Tirrell is therefore moot and the claims should be allowed to issue in light of the rejection.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 29-32 have been added and are believed to be in allowable condition. Support for claims 29 and 31 is provided within the Specification, for example, on page 10, line 10-14. Support for claim 30 is provided within the Specification, for example, in Fig. 2. Support for claim 32 is provided within the Specification, for example, on page 9, line 26 through page 11, line 20 and page 16, lines 6-11. No new matter has been added to the application.

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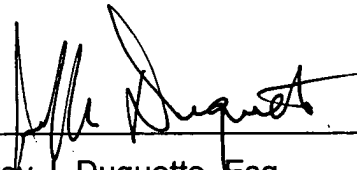
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant's Representative at the number below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey J. Duquette', is written over a horizontal line.

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Attorney Docket No.: CIS03-40(7847)

Dated: January 3, 2006